

Pueblo *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Work Resumes on Design, Stage-One Construction

continued on page 4

Spring 2005

In This Issue

Gloria Duran Joins Citizens' Advisory
Commission, Following Her Former Teacher
page 2

Public Comment Sought
on Pueblo Design Options
page 3

Nemec Brings Aberdeen Experience to
Bechtel Pueblo Team
page 6

Maryland Facility Completes Destruction
of Mustard Stockpile
page 7

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**Pueblo Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant**

www.pmacwa.army.mil

Fay Kastelic Honored for Citizens' Advisory Commission Service



Fay Kastelic was honored at the February meeting of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC), as she retired from the CAC. In this photo montage, she is shown above being greeted by U. S. Congressman John Salazar; receiving a Bechtel hardhat; and left, accepting a gift from ACWA Program Manager Mike Parker as CAC Chair John Klomp looks on.

See story on page 2

Gloria Duran Joins CAC, Following Her Former Teacher

When Gloria Duran succeeded Fay Kastelic as a member of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC), she was following the example of one of her former teachers.

"I'm proud of and want to brag about my former student at Excelsior Junior High School," Kastelic said, as she introduced Duran to the commission at its February meeting at the Pueblo Convention Center. Kastelic was Duran's ninth-grade social studies teacher at Excelsior.

Before succeeding Kastelic on the commission, Duran also followed her into a career with Pueblo School District 70. Both women are retired from District 70, where Kastelic was a teacher and administrator and Duran held a variety of administrative positions. Duran was appointed to the CAC by Gov. Bill Owens after Kastelic resigned. Duran, whose father worked at the former Pueblo Army Depot, is a lifelong Avondale resident and former member of the Avondale Water Board. Her family includes husband Frank and 17-year-old daughter Kristin.

"I've followed Fay for quite a while," Duran said. "We worked together for District 70, Colorado Teachers' Awards, and now I get to follow her on this commission. I am looking forward to working with all of you."

"Keep the faith, keep coming, keep showing your community interest, and if you have something to say, for goodness sakes, don't be afraid to say it. It may well be the most valuable thought you've ever had in your life."

— Fay Kastelic

Noting that Avondale is one of the communities closest to the U. S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, Duran said, "I would also like to thank

the commissioners for the opportunity to be the liaison for the Avondale community. We're very much concerned with what's going on over there at the depot, and I look forward to the challenge of letting everyone know how we feel out in Avondale."

Kastelic was a charter member of the CAC, having served since the

organization was created in 1993. In bidding farewell to the CAC, Kastelic told the audience, "Keep the faith, keep coming, keep showing your community interest, and if you have something to say, for goodness sakes, don't be afraid to say it. It may well be the most valuable thought you've ever had in your life."

She quoted German mathematician, astronomer, and physicist Carl Friedrich Gauss: "I have had my results for a long time: but I do not yet know how I am to arrive at them." She then elicited a laugh from the audience by adding, "That fits this commission perfectly."

When then-Congressman Scott McInnis spoke at the

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) groundbreaking last September, he referred to Kastelic as "Miss Pueblo" in recognition of her many contributions to the community.

In her career with District 70 she progressed from classroom teacher to principal to district director for elementary education. After retiring from education she served as a member and President of the Pueblo City Council, choosing not to run for reelection in 1997 due to health problems. She recovered from cancer and was later named Citizen of the Year by the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce in 1998.

"This commission has worked well together and I shall miss them," she said. "By that same token, I am not going anywhere. I am a Pueblo citizen, as well as the Fay Kastelic that loves Pueblo."

Mike Parker, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program Manager, presented Kastelic a shadow box with mementoes from her participation in the plant groundbreaking. The Bechtel Pueblo Team gave her a personalized Bechtel hardhat and a shirt commemorating one million accident-free hours by the company's employees.



Gloria Duran, left, is following in the footsteps of her former teacher, Fay Kastelic, right, as a member of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission. They are pictured here at the commission's February meeting, at which Duran officially joined the group.

Public Comment Sought on Pueblo Design Options

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program (ACWA) started a process in March to seek public comment on design options being evaluated to reduce the life-cycle cost of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot-Plant (PCAPP).

“The Department of Defense (DoD) is making important decisions about the design, operation, funding and schedule of PCAPP. We want to ensure that the public has the opportunity to review the options being studied and provide comments to DoD decision-makers,” said Gary Anderson, PCAPP site project manager. (The timeline for decision-making is provided at the bottom of this page.)

Anderson said ACWA will work with the Acceleration Options Working Group (AOWG) to provide information and seek public comment. The AOWG is a subcommittee of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens’ Advisory Commission (CAC).

“In 2003, when we were evaluating options for accelerating the project, the AOWG was an excellent focal point for public involvement. Even though the options we’re currently studying aren’t related to acceleration, the AOWG members have valuable background knowledge,” Anderson said.

Design Options Meeting To Be Held April 18

The Acceleration Options Working Group will meet on Monday, April 18 to begin reviewing design options for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. The meeting will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Pueblo County Conference Room, 1001 North Santa Fe Avenue, Pueblo.

The current PCAPP design is a facility that will process all the mustard agent, explosives, and secondary wastes onsite, with two possible exceptions. Based on recommendations from the AOWG in 2003, the project team is evaluating offsite shipment of two types of waste: uncontaminated dunnage (wood pallets, boxes, etc.) and stable, uncontaminated propellants (explosive charges). The project team is working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to evaluate those options.

In order to meet a DoD requirement to reduce life-cycle cost, the project team is now conducting a two-stage set of trade studies. The first stage, which is being completed this month, evaluates changes in equipment and operations that could reduce cost but do not alter the overall concept of the plant.

The second stage, to be completed in June, evaluates options that would significantly change the approach. These options could result in a plant that destroys the mustard agent onsite, but ships almost all other wastes, including hydrolysate, offsite for further treatment and disposal.

“We recognize that offsite shipment of hydrolysate generated significant public comment in 2003. Since that option is now being reevaluated, we want the public to have an opportunity to learn about these studies and provide comments,” Anderson said.

ACWA and the Bechtel Pueblo Team provided an introductory briefing to the CAC on March 30 and will hold additional meetings with the AOWG over the next few months.

The March 30 meeting provided an overview of the trade studies being conducted by Bechtel to evaluate options for design and operation of the facility.

PCAPP Path Forward

The project is working toward the following schedule to support a Department of Defense (DoD) decision on the design and schedule for PCAPP.



Work Resumes on Design, Stage-One Construction

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project team is gearing up to start stage-one construction and resume design work following a recent announcement that the Department of Defense has released funds for those activities.

In a March 23 memorandum, Michael Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, authorized and directed the project to resume design, with a goal of reducing life-cycle cost. He also released funds for “neutral” construction work (facilities that will be required regardless of the final design of the plant).

Michael A. Parker, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program Manager, said, “Our project team will continue to identify changes to the existing design concepts that will reduce the overall costs of both the Pueblo and the Blue Grass projects. As we do so, we’re committed to working closely with

both communities to involve the public in looking at these options.”

He added, “The construction activities that we will be resuming as soon as possible in Pueblo will support any option that may be ultimately selected.”

Construction work will include an access road, fencing, a security checkpoint with facilities for X-raying trucks, and related surveying services. The Bechtel Pueblo Team is in the process of revising and reissuing requests for proposals that were canceled when a stop work order for construction was issued in January. A new construction schedule is being developed. Site grading and underground utilities, which were part of the earlier construction plan, will be deferred until the plant design is determined.

The direction from Wynne lifts both the early construction hold at the Pueblo site, as well as

last September’s stop work order imposed on the plant’s processing design. At that time, the Bechtel Pueblo Team was directed to stop design work on the plant’s processing buildings while studies were initiated to examine design alternatives that could reduce project costs. “Processing” refers to those areas of the plant where the weapons’ energetics materials and chemical agent will be accessed, removed and neutralized. Those studies will continue through this summer, with opportunities for public involvement planned.

The start of early construction was put on hold in January while the Army’s Chemical Materials Agency conducts an assessment to review options that may help the department meet a 2012 chemical weapons treaty destruction deadline, including the relocation of chemical weapons stockpiles. Work on that assessment continues.

General Griffin Visits Pueblo



General Benjamin Griffin, commander of the U. S. Army Materiel Command (AMC), visited the U. S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot March 10. Shown here, he greets depot employee Von Terry. Also pictured are employees Brad Still (back to camera) and Eddie Michaels.

Gen. Griffin toured depot facilities and was briefed by the installation commander, Lt. Col. John Becker. Joining the visit were staff members from the offices of Sen. Wayne Allard, Sen. Ken Salazar, and Congressman John Salazar. AMC is responsible for all aspects of Army materiel readiness and is the higher headquarters of the Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Army Agency Conducting Technical Assessment

The U. S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is conducting an in-depth technical assessment for all eight chemical demilitarization sites in the United States.

In January, the Office of the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction), directed a study to:

- Develop alternatives for achieving the April 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention deadline of destroying the U.S. stored chemical agent stockpile, and
- Safeguard the chemical agent stockpile when relocation among sites is considered as an alternative.

The technical assessment is investigating various possibilities that include but are not limited to transportation, reconfiguration, Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel systems applications, co-processing and other technical alternatives

The assessment is being led by Kevin P. Duvall, Acting Director of the CMA’s Cooperative Threat Reduction Support Directorate. Results of the assessment will be provided to Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology.

For the most recent information on the assessment, visit the CMA Web site at www.cma.army.mil.

Partners in Pueblo Chemical Weapons Destruction Program

The following is a summary of key program partners and their roles in the shared goal to safely dispose of the chemical weapons stockpile at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot.

Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

The Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office informs stakeholders about the chemical weapons destruction program. The office is located at 104 West B Street in Pueblo, near the historic Union Depot.

Contact: Bob Kennemer, Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, Community Outreach Manager, (719) 546-0400, crkennem@bechtel.com

Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PMACWA)

PMACWA is responsible for the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. PMACWA is headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Contact: Gary Anderson, Site Project Manager, (719) 549-4842, gary.anderson@pcd.army.mil

Contact: Katherine DeWeese, PMACWA Public Affairs Officer, (410) 436-3398, katherine.deweese@us.army.mil. Visit www.pmacwa.army.mil for more information.

Bechtel Pueblo Team

The Bechtel Pueblo Team is the systems contractor, whose assignment is to design, build, test, operate and close the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Contact: John Schlatter, Bechtel Pueblo Team Public Involvement Manager, (719) 546-0400, jfschlatt@bechtel.com

U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot

The Pueblo Chemical Depot, located about 15 miles east of Pueblo, is a 23,000-acre Army installation that is responsible for the safe and secure storage of a portion of the chemical weapons stockpile of mustard agent.

Contact: Marilyn Thompson, Pueblo Chemical Depot Public Affairs Officer, (719) 549-4135, marilyn.thompson@pcd.army.mil, or: Lorraine Waters, Public Affairs Specialist, (719) 549-4118, lorraine.waters@pcd.army.mil

Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission

The Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission, or CAC, serves as a bridge between the community and the government. The Governor of Colorado appoints members.

Contact: John Klomp, Chair, (719) 248-8346

Contact: Jeannine Natterman, (888) 569-1831, ext. 3303, jeannine.natterman@state.co.us

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The mission of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is to protect public health and the environment. The department is responsible for enforcing the hazardous waste regulations in the state of Colorado and will consider the Army's permit applications for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Contact: Doug Knappe, (888) 569-1831, ext. 3414, doug.knappe@state.co.us

Contact: Jeannine Natterman, (888) 569-1831, ext. 3303, jeannine.natterman@state.co.us

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

This program enhances the emergency preparedness of the county, depot and state through equipment, personnel, training and public awareness.

Contact: Alicia Johnson, Pueblo County Department of Emergency Management Public Information Officer, (719) 583-6222

Contact: Marilyn Thompson, U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot Public Affairs Officer, (719) 549-4135, marilyn.thompson@pcd.army.mil

Contact: Polly White, Colorado Division of Emergency Management, (303) 273-1860, polly.white@state.co.us

Contact: Deroy Holt, FEMA Region VIII, (303) 235-4819, deroy.holt@dhs.gov



Nemec Brings Aberdeen Experience to Bechtel Pueblo Team

Joe Nemec became the Bechtel Pueblo Team's project manager on Feb. 22 after leading the systems contractor team in safely neutralizing the stockpile of mustard agent at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Maryland.

He succeeds Mike Lewis, who is now construction manager for the Department of Energy's \$5.7 billion Hanford Tank Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant in Washington state.

Nemec is a Bechtel Principal Vice President and the company's senior plant operations manager. He guided the Aberdeen facility through the safe draining and neutralization of more than 1,500 tons of bulk mustard agent.

Prior to his Aberdeen assignment, Nemec was environmental operations manager for Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI), responsible for all BNI environmental projects worldwide. His senior management assignments with Bechtel and other companies include reactor operations, nuclear decommissioning, and remediation of hazardous and radioactive wastes.

Here he discusses the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project.

What Are Your Priorities?

First and foremost is safety. That includes the safety of our employees and the public, and it also means protecting the environment. I inherited an excellent safety record from Mike Lewis. Our PCAPP employees have worked more than 1.3 million accident-free hours, and I want to build on that record.

My other top priority is to revise our design concept to bring the life-cycle cost of the project within the funding available from the Department of Defense.

What Cost-Reduction Measures Are You Considering?

We're looking for anything that can reduce the cost of design, construction, operations, or closure, so long as it does not compromise safety and environmental protection.

Can You Give Some Examples?

We're currently conducting trade studies to

evaluate nine potential technical changes in equipment and operations. Those options are being discussed with the public through the Acceleration Options Working Group of the Citizens' Advisory Commission. In addition to those options, there are several big-picture things we need to examine.

For example, we could reduce the size of the plant. The current design includes three treatment lines in order to process munitions quickly. Reducing the number of treatment lines would reduce capital costs and the number of operating employees required. It would, of course, also mean the plant will operate for a longer period of time. We have to look at those cost trade-offs.

Another option is to design the plant to minimize the number of employees required to be in the surety program. For those of you not familiar with surety, it includes a rigorous security clearance for certain employees, and special requirements for work in areas where chemical agents or munitions are present. It's expensive to qualify employees for the surety program and to comply with the surety work rules.

A third area of potential cost savings is the off-site treatment of certain wastes, including dunnage (packing materials), explosives, and hydrolysate. I know there are public concerns over off-site treatment, which is why we're involving the public in this analysis.

How Does PCAPP Compare with Aberdeen?

The two common denominators are mustard agent and neutralization. The mustard agent at Aberdeen is essentially the same as at Pueblo, and PCAPP will likely use the same type of



Joe Nemec

neutralization reactors as Aberdeen.

The big difference is how the mustard is stored. At Aberdeen we had about 1,800 steel containers of mustard, totaling about 1,500 tons of agent. We did not have to deal with fuses, propellants, explosives, or dunnage. At Pueblo we must process nearly 800,000 artillery and mortar shells, including their explosive components. We also have to deal with wooden boxes and other packaging that may be contaminated with trace amounts of mustard.

Coming from Maryland, What Are Your Impressions of Pueblo?

I grew up in Butte, Mont., and spent a lot of time in eastern Washington, so the terrain looks familiar. My first night in Pueblo I took a walk along the Riverwalk and through the historic district, and had dinner at a restaurant on Union Avenue.

I liked the area so much that I'm now living downtown in a loft in one of the renovated buildings. The historic brick buildings remind me of Savannah, Ga., where one of my daughters attends graduate school.

My other impression of Pueblo is that the people are very friendly and have given me a warm welcome.

Joe Nemec Bio

- Guided Aberdeen facility through safe destruction of mustard agent stockpile
- Principal Vice President of Bechtel Corporation
- Extensive experience managing hazardous and radioactive waste remediation, nuclear decommissioning, and nuclear reactor operations
- Degree in physics from University of Montana; graduate studies at University of Washington
- Native of Butte, Montana

Aberdeen Completes Destruction of Mustard Stockpile

Workers at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF), located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), achieved a major milestone on March 11 when the last batch of mustard agent was neutralized by the facility. This marks the end of draining and neutralizing APG's chemical agent stockpile.

Maryland is the first state in the continental United States to process the drained contents of its stockpile and to have the risk posed by a chemical agent stockpile eliminated.

"This is a great day for the people of Maryland and for the global chemical weapons disarmament effort," said U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Director Michael Parker. He added, "A stockpile of steel containers holding one of the world's most lethal substances since 1941 has now been safely destroyed. The safety threat to the local community is gone and the worldwide threat of chemical weapons further reduced."

"We had to overcome a series of technical challenges starting up a first-of-a-kind plant, but a combined work force of 500 government and Bechtel team contractor personnel rose to the occasion and resolved each and every issue," explained Edgewood Chemical Activity (ECA) and ABCDF Commander Lt. Col. Gerald L. Gladney. "Through it all, though, the workers did their jobs safely and brought us to this moment with a real sprint at the finish."

Workers at the facility began destroying the stockpile in April 2003. It took 18 months to drain and destroy the first half of the liquid agent; the second half took slightly more than 4 months. Joe Nemec, project manager for the Bechtel Pueblo Team, led the ABCDF systems contractor team for the last 18 months of operation before joining the Pueblo project on Feb. 22.

The ABCDF work force had many partners in this effort, according to Army Site Project Manager Joe Lovrich. "I look back with tremendous pride considering the many people that have worked tirelessly to convert a technology developed in an Army laboratory to a multiacre industrial complex designed to safely destroy one of the nation's stockpiles of chemical weapons. Our success in reaching this milestone is a direct result of our partnerships with countless APG installation organizations, environmental regulators, emergency response agencies and the citizens of Maryland who endured the presence of the stockpile for more than 60 years."

"At our groundbreaking ceremony, six years ago this June," recalled Bechtel Defense & Space President Jan Van Prooyen, "the Bechtel Aberdeen team committed itself to providing the community, the Army and our nation with safe, disciplined, environmentally compliant chemical disposal. Now, thanks to the dedication of several hundred men and women — most of them Marylanders — who have been part of this multicompany team, I can acknowledge with pride that Bechtel Aberdeen has delivered on that commitment."



Jason Galbraith, a Bechtel neutralization operator, logs the transfer of the last batch of neutralized mustard agent as it is transferred to a storage tank as agent-free waste water.

The steel containers that held the agent continue to be cleaned of residual agent solids, cut in half and decontaminated at the ABCDF's Ton Container Cleanout Facility. The last remnants of the stockpile, agent residue in the ton containers are being removed using a high-pressure spray wash in this facility. These operations are scheduled for completion next winter. The entire facility will then enter a closure phase in which plant equipment is dismantled and decontaminated.

Tooele Plant Destroys Millionth Munition

On March 9, workers at Utah's Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) commemorated the safe destruction of more than one million chemical weapons.

Chemical weapons have been stored at Deseret since the 1940s. Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman Jr. signed a proclamation at the ceremony commemorating the event.

Destruction operations began at TOCDF in 1996, with destruction of GB (sarin) munitions. The VX agent campaign began in March 2003 and is scheduled for completion this spring. Mustard destruction operations are scheduled to begin early next year.



Your Comments Are Needed on Major Decisions about PCAPP Design

By GARY ANDERSON,
ACWA Site Project Manager

This is a busy time for ACWA and the Bechtel Pueblo Team. We're getting ready to restart stage-one construction while we evaluate potential changes in the design and operation of PCAPP to reduce the life-cycle cost. I'd like to give you an update on the process for making those decisions.

In February, Pat Wakefield, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction, made a presentation to the Citizens' Advisory Commission. Mr. Wakefield reviewed historical cost growth in the nationwide chemical demilitarization program and discussed the proposed cost of PCAPP as currently designed.

He stated that various independent assessments have concluded there is a more affordable design, and that ACWA has been directed to develop alternatives for PCAPP that are safe,

cost effective, and within the Department of Defense's (DoD) fiscal resources. Then, on March 23, Acting Under Secretary Michael Wynne directed the project to resume design and present a plan for reducing life-cycle cost.

To comply with that direction, ACWA and the Bechtel Pueblo Team are evaluating a variety of options to reduce costs. In keeping with ACWA's commitment to public involvement, we are seeking public comment on those options. My boss, Mike Parker, the ACWA program manager, is working with senior



Gary Anderson

executives in DoD who will make decisions about future funding and schedule for the plant. Mr. Parker will ensure that they are aware of issues of interest to the Pueblo community.

Pueblo is part of a nationwide chemical demilitarization program. I want to take a moment to congratulate our colleagues at Aberdeen, who destroyed the last mustard agent in their stockpile on March 11. This is a major accomplishment, as Aberdeen becomes the second of the nation's chemical demilitarization sites (along with Johnston Atoll) to complete destruction of its stockpile.

Finally, I want to welcome Joe Nemec to Pueblo as the Bechtel project manager. Joe was Bechtel's project manager at Aberdeen, and his experience with neutralization of the mustard stockpile there will be a great asset to our project. I also want to thank Mike Lewis for his service to the project, and wish him well in his new assignment in Washington state.



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